

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089684

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, RO

SUBJECT:ROMANIAN USE OF REPRESSIVE TACTICS: U.S. VIEW

REF: BUCHAREST 2838

1. OWING TO EXTREMELY CROWDED SCHEDULE, DR. BRZEZINSKI WAS NOT ABLE TO MEET WITH PROF CONSTANTIN GIURESCU ON APRIL 20 AS PLANNED. SINCE SO FAR AS WE KNOW GIURESCU WAS COMING TO WASHINGTON SOLELY TO MEET DR. BRZEZINSKI, IT APPEARS WE WILL NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE VLAD GEORGESCU'S ARREST AND RELATED MATTERS WITH GOR THROUGH HIM PER SCENARIO REFTTEL.

2. BY NOW, RECENT ROMANIAN ACTIONS --INCLUDING RESTRICTION OF ACCESS TO EMBASSY AND LIBRARY APRIL 2/3; ANTI-US AND ANTI-EMIGRATION PRESS CAMPAIGN; APPARENT ARRESTS AND HARASSMENT OF "DISSIDENTS" AND PROFESSIONALS SUCH AS VLAD GEORGESCU AND ION VIANU; ARRESTS OF BAPTISTS; AND OFFICIAL DISCOURAGEMENT OF CONTACTS WITH AMERICAN
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EMBASSY -- ADD UP TO A DISTURBING PATTERN. SO FAR, US PRESS COVERAGE OF THESE EVENTS HAS BEEN QUITE LIMITED, AND THEY HAVE NOT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE MADE MUCH IMPACT YET ON CONGRESS. HOWEVER, THEY CAN ONLY HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE MFN RENEWAL PROCESS, WHICH WILL BEGIN

SHORTLY, AND, FOR THAT MATTER, ON CONGRESSIONAL WILLING-

NESS TO APPROPRIATE THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS AUTHORIZED FOR DISASTER RELIEF. FURTHER, THEY REPRESENT A DEVIATION FROM THE PATTERN OF MODERATION WE HAVE COME TO EXPECT FROM ROMANIA, BOTH AS REGARDS TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS AND ROMANIAN RECEPTIVITY TO EXPRESSIONS OF DIFFERING VIEWPOINTS.

3. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS AS TO MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF BRINGING OUR CONCERN TO THE ATTENTION OF ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES. THE POSSIBILITIES INCLUDE YOUR RAISING THE SUBJECT WITH MACOVESCU, AND/OR WITH BURTICA OR ANDREI, AND/OR THE DEPARTMENT (E.G. ARMITAGE OR HARTMAN) WITH AMBASSADOR NICOLAE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD PRESENT ITSELF IF YOUR REQUEST TO SEE CEAUSESCU COMES THROUGH MEANWHILE.

4. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HAVE YOUR VIEWS ON THE APPROACH WE TAKE WITH THE ROMANIANS. THIS COULD INCLUDE:

(A) REVIEW OF THE EVENTS WHICH HAVE DISTURBED US;

(B) EXPRESSION OF CONCERN THAT ROMANIAN MEASURES DO NOT SEEM TO ACCORD WITH ROMANIAN UNDERTAKINGS AT HELSINKI AND ELSEWHERE;

(C) STATEMENT THAT SUCH ACTIONS ARE PERCEIVED NEGATIVELY BY AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND CONGRESS;

(D) OUR DESIRE TO CONTINUE DEVELOPMENT OF GOOD
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RELATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN IMPORTANT TO BOTH COUNTRIES;

(E) REQUEST FOR REASSURANCE THAT ROMANIAN POLICY, AS WE HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND IT, INCLUDING ITS POLICY TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES, HAS NOT CHANGED.
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Message Attributes

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